

Granuloma inguinale receives no mention. The authors leave the reader with the firm impression that they have little knowledge of, and no interest in, the venereal diseases, with the possible exception of rectal strictures due to lymphogranuloma venereum.

This book, therefore, in spite of some faults of presentation and a style which can only be described as racy, has much sound practical information for the proctologist. It is well illustrated and fairly well documented. For those whose main interest is venereology, however, it is not to be recommended.

A.J.K.

The Agreement of Brussels, 1924, respecting Facilities to be given to Merchant Seamen for the Treatment of Venereal Diseases. Report of a Study Group. World Health Organization, Technical Report Series, No. 150. 64 pp. H.M.S.O., P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1. Also published in French and Spanish. (3s. 6d.).

The Study Group, comprising representatives of the public health authorities of five major maritime countries together with members of the secretariats of the International Labour Office and WHO, met in December, 1956, to consider the provisions of the Brussels Agreement of 1924 from the point of view of

the health administrator of to-day. This Agreement of 1924 relating to venereal infections was the first international health instrument providing organized facilities for seafarers in ports; its practical character has made it outstanding in the history of public health. The Report of this study Group describes the early history of maritime venereal disease control and gives the original text of the Brussels Agreement with full details of its implementation; a useful bibliography on the health of seafarers is appended.

Since the Brussels Agreement was signed in 1924, the general conditions of the merchant mariner have been improved and in the last decade the treatment of venereal disease has been greatly simplified and foreshortened. These changing circumstances suggested that some revision of the Agreement should be undertaken, but the Study Group concluded that while the technical aspects of the provisions of the Agreement should be reviewed periodically no attempt should yet be made to replace the Agreement with another type of international instrument. The Group proposed, however, that the possibility should be studied of establishing a broader international approach to the whole health problems of seafarers. The Report should be read by all venereologists and port medical officers of health. S.M.L.